

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS G. HUNGAR

HON. PAUL D. RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2018

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express the appreciation of the entire House of Representatives to Thomas G. Hungar for his exemplary service as General Counsel of the House. Tom has been a faithful defender of this institution, its Members, and its prerogatives since his appointment in 2016. Tom's distinguished legal career has included service in all three branches of government. In the Judicial Branch, he served as a law clerk in the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the Supreme Court of the United States. In the Executive Branch, he served in the Office of the Solicitor General at the Department of Justice, including as Deputy Solicitor General. Having presented oral argument before the Supreme Court in 26 cases, Tom is one of our Nation's leading appellate lawyers and an expert on constitutional law.

Tom began his Legislative Branch service with the House in 2016, as one of only a small number of lawyers ever to serve as General Counsel of the House. Under Tom's guidance and leadership, the General Counsel's Office has provided sophisticated and invaluable legal advice and has been a trusted institutional resource for Members, Officers, Committees, and staff, regardless of political affiliation. Through excellent legal work and counsel, undertaken with zeal for the best interests of the House, Tom and his office have earned the respect of Members on both sides of the aisle.

When the House's institutional interests were at stake, Tom's legal advice was always tailored to safeguarding the House's constitutional prerogatives and protecting the House's vital role in our constitutional structure. Tom successfully litigated cases defending and protecting the House's constitutionally based subpoena authority. Tom also defended the House and its Officers to preserve and protect the House's longstanding practice of opening each legislative day with a prayer. Additionally, under Tom, the House has filed amicus briefs articulating its position on the proper interpretation of the Appropriations, Rulemaking, and Speech or Debate Clauses of the Constitution. Numerous Members, Committees, and Subcommittees relied on Tom's extensive litigation expertise in connection with investigative and oversight activities. Finally, Tom defended House Members, Officers, and staff in judicial proceedings at both the trial and appellate levels and advised Members and Committees in connection with their interactions with both private and other governmental entities.

I know that Tom will continue his exceptional work wherever the next chapter of his impressive legal career takes him. On behalf

of the House of Representatives, I express my deepest gratitude to Tom for his dedication to this institution, and I extend our very best wishes to him, his wife Jaye, and their children, Brett, Claire, Lance, and Paige.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DAKARAI FAGORALA

HON. JERRY McNERNEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2018

Mr. McNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Dakarai Fagorala, who passed away on Sunday, August 12, 2018. Dakarai was only 17 years old and just shy of his 18th birthday when he passed as a result of injuries sustained from a fatal car accident.

Dakarai recently graduated with honors from Deer Valley High School in Antioch, California, where he also played on the basketball team. He was an exceptional young man, working a part-time job to save money for college and help his family during his school years.

He participated in the 2016 National Youth Leadership Forum for National Security-Diplomacy and competed in the 2016 Amateur Athletic Union's "Jam on It" Tournament.

Dakarai took great pride in his community and looked for ways to give back. He was a Junior Deacon at Fellowship Church in Antioch and regularly volunteered at homeless shelters in Contra Costa County, cooking and serving meals to veterans and seniors.

Dakarai was a shining light who touched the lives of everyone he met. Our community mourns the loss of Dakarai Fagorala, and our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. WILLIAM R. KEATING

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2018

Mr. KEATING. Mr. Speaker, on December 12, 2018, I was recovering from an eye surgery and was therefore unable to be present for the votes on the motion on ordering the previous question on the Rule providing for consideration of the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 2, the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018, the rule providing for consideration of the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 2, the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018, and agreeing to the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 2, the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018.

Had I been present for Roll Call No. 431, on the motion on ordering the previous question on the Rule providing for consideration of the

Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 2, the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018, I would have voted NO.

Had I been present for Roll Call No. 432, on the rule providing for consideration of the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 2, the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018, I would have voted NO.

Had I been present for Roll Call No. 434, on agreeing to the Conference Report to Accompany H.R. 2, the Agriculture and Nutrition Act of 2018, I would have voted YEA.

KATHRYN WIRKUS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 17, 2018

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor Kathryn Wirkus for her hard work and dedication to the people of the 7th Congressional District.

Since I met Kathryn in 2012, she has become a friend and an instrumental member of my team. For more than seven years, she has worked in my congressional office as part of the constituent services team and handled the issues of military and Veterans affairs and aerospace. Her time as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force brought a wealth of knowledge on Veteran's issues and a shared experience she that she was able to relate to with the Veterans she helped. She has been a tremendous asset to our team and to the constituents we serve. Her relationships with liaisons at federal agencies and within the community helped ensure she was always able to help answer questions, direct folks to the appropriate resources, secure long-deserved medals and recognition for Veterans, and even secure money or benefits that were owed to Veterans in the district.

Prior to serving in my congressional office, Kathryn worked on behalf of Veterans across the state in the Colorado Department of Veterans Affairs. Prior to that, she served in the United States Air Force for 27 years, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. Her dedication, particularly to women Veterans, is commendable and is shown through her work in forming the Colorado Women's Veterans organization, which she is the current Vice President.

Kathryn has a true gift for working with Veterans and understanding the issues and challenges they face. Her good nature and sense of humor always help make Veterans and constituents feel comfortable and welcome. I extend my deepest appreciation to Kathryn Wirkus for the difference she made in the lives of many people in our community and for her service to our country. I will be forever grateful for her service to our team, the district, and the United States of America. I wish her all the best in her next chapter.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.